

ARGUMENTS / PROSECUTION

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Addressing the issue of patentability, I would like to outline what I understand the criteria for the grant of a patent to be. I will then explain how I see my invention fulfilling those criteria. Finally, I will compare my invention to the prior art that I have found in order to highlight the differences.

To be patentable in the U.S. an invention must be new, useful, and unobvious from the prior art. A utility patent must fit into one of four categories:

- 1) A process
- 2) A machine
- 3) An article of manufacture
- 4) Composition of matter

A process can also include a new method of making or using something already known in the other categories. My invention I believe can be looked at as a new method of using something already known in another category. Previously, vents have been used for the purpose of equalizing pressure. Several patents have been written and granted for a variety of vent designs that act to equalize or relieve pressure differences across a roof. No one however, has made use of a vent's ability to limit the maximum pressure difference that can occur.

I am applying for the grant of patent rights for a roof vent system. The new and useful thing which this system achieves, is the prevention of a pressure difference greater than a specified value across the roof, (i.e. between the interior and exterior of the building) and thus the prevention of roof loss. (The specified value is set so as to be lower than the pressure difference needed to lift off the roof). It is important to note that it is only as a vent system, (an entity in itself) installed using specific parameters that the objective of the invention can be achieved.